ASSET PROFILE
Purpose - Data Sources - Methodology

Purpose

This asset profile summarizes significant data and information gathered during the CRS data collection process, from which Cluster board members and community stakeholders developed reinvestment recommendations. The profile describes and discusses: land use; regional issues; socioeconomic factors; neighborhood and commercial development opportunities and challenges; existing transportation resources and barriers; job centers; environmental issues; housing assets, needs and opportunities; youth development resources and concerns; quality of life issues; and unique elements of the Cluster.

Data Sources and Methodology

CRS has involved an extensive data and information collection process, utilizing the services of the Michigan Metropolitan Information Center (MMIC) as information manager and data provider. In addition to MMIC, CRS relied upon the Detroit Master Plan of Policies of 1990 (DMP), U.S. Census Bureau information, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) data, various city departments such as Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, Housing, Police, and CRS core staff. While all of these sources maintain a wealth of data, gaps exist in information necessary for a responsible reinvestment decision making process. Therefore, CRS depended heavily upon community stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of strengths, opportunities, and challenges within their respective communities to enhance what is known through existing data and to support collection of current data.

Additionally, CRS generated current condition data through surveys and information obtained directly from community stakeholders through a number of processes:

- Building Conditions: Cluster 6 data gatherers collected current condition information for residential and commercial areas. Residential (housing) information was collected and reported according to Census block groups. Commercial (non-residential) information was collected and reported using a block-face approach (i.e., surveying and recording information for one side of a street at a time).

- To ensure consistency, a standardized survey and process for data collection and analysis was designed and used throughout the entire city for both the residential and commercial surveys. This standardization occurred through the collective

effort of CRS core staff and the five technical assistance teams serving as consultants to the various Clusters. This was a unique process, involving almost weekly meetings to reach consensus on the most efficient and effective data collection methods compatible with CRS mission and time frames.

- Community Forums: Residents were invited to attend neighborhood-based forums to learn about and discuss CRS and offer their perspective about reinvestment in their communities.

- Focus Groups: Group sessions were held concentrating on transportation, housing, youth development, neighborhood commercial facilities, job centers, and environment were held. Each of these sessions offered an opportunity for board members and stakeholders to brainstorm, in which participants openly discussed special issues within their communities. Participants were asked to complete "instrumental group interview" (IGI) forms that included questions about the topic area (see the appendix on page 133-136).

- Neighborhood History and Quality of Life Interviews: Telephone interviews were held with Cluster board members to gather information about quality of life issues, unique historical and current aspects of their neighborhoods, and any plans for community development projects.

- Cluster Bus Tours: Tours were carried out to expand board members' view of the geographic area constituting the entire Cluster. This was important to broadening Cluster board members' perspective from a neighborhood to a Cluster-wide view.

- Institutional Windshield Survey: The Cluster 6 Technical Assistance Team also completed an "institutional windshield survey" (a street-by-street drive through November/December 1997) to identify current data regarding existing churches, schools, health care providers, libraries, police and fire stations for comparison with existing data. The windshield survey of current institutions is located in the Appendix on page 137. Existing organizations mapped by MMIC are located in the organizational profile section (starting on page 51).